

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-based method for providing guidance to a purchaser for selecting an appliance that ~~generally requires~~ venting, the guidance ~~including~~comprising recommendations that take into account physical constraints regarding a venting ~~arrangement~~structure for the appliance, the method comprising:

AJ providing a database for storing appliance-related information including a respective identifier for each appliance, the appliance-related information further including venting requirements data for each appliance;

configuring a vent wizard to provide a set of prompts over a communications network to elicit information from the purchaser regarding a respective appliance of interest to the purchaser, and vent parameters indicative of the physical constraints for the venting ~~arrangement~~structure for the appliance;

accessing the database in view of the information supplied by the purchaser;

processing the information supplied by the purchaser relative to the vent requirements data for the appliance of interest to determine a recommendation to the purchaser regarding suitability of the venting ~~arrangement~~structure relative to the appliance of interest; and

transmitting the recommendation to the purchaser so that appropriate action may be taken by the purchaser regarding the selection of the appliance and/or venting ~~arrangement~~structure.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based method of claim 1 wherein the processing of the information supplied by the purchaser relative to the vent requirements data comprises:

generating air flow data indicative of air flow supportable by the venting arrangementstructure based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser;

comparing the air flow supportable by the venting arrangementstructure relative to air flow actually required by the appliance of interest; and

determining the suitability of the venting arrangementstructure for the appliance of interest based on the results of the comparison.

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3. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based method of claim 1 wherein the recommendation comprises indicating to the purchaser that the venting arrangementstructure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is within a predefined acceptable range relative to at least one model for the appliance of interest.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based method of claim 1 wherein the recommendation comprises indicating to the purchaser that the venting arrangementstructure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is within a predefined marginally acceptable range relative to at least one model for the appliance of interest.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based method of claim 1 wherein the recommendation comprises indicating to the purchaser that the venting arrangementstructure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is within a predefined unsuitable range for the appliance of interest.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based method of claim 1 wherein the recommendation comprises indicating to the purchaser that the venting arrangementstructure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is unsuitable to the appliance of interest, and further comprises indicating to the purchaser alternative appliance choices that would be suitable for the venting arrangementstructure.

Ad 7. **(Original)** The computer-based method of claim 1 wherein the vent parameters are selected from the group consisting of length of the vent, number of turns along the vent, turn angle, and dimensions of a vent outlet cover.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based method of claim 1 wherein the recommendation comprises suggesting changes to the venting arrangementstructure that would make that arrangementstructure suitable to the appliance of interest.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based method of claim 1 further comprising issuing a document certifying that the venting arrangementstructure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is within a predefined acceptable range relative to at least one model for the appliance of interest.

10. **(Original)** The computer-based method of claim 1 wherein the appliance is selected from the group consisting of a drier, a range hood, and exhaust fan.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-based system for providing guidance to a purchaser for selecting an appliance that ~~generally~~ requires venting, the guidance ~~including~~ comprising recommendations that take into account physical constraints regarding a venting ~~arrangement~~ structure for the appliance, the system comprising:

a database for storing appliance-related information including a respective identifier for each appliance, the appliance-related information further including venting requirements data for each appliance;

*AO* a vent wizard configured to provide a set of prompts over a communications network to elicit information from the purchaser regarding a respective appliance of interest to the purchaser, and vent parameters indicative of the physical constraints for the venting ~~arrangement~~ structure for the appliance; and

a processor configured to access the database in view of the information supplied by the purchaser and process the information supplied by the purchaser relative to the vent requirements data for the appliance of interest to determine a recommendation to the purchaser regarding suitability of the venting ~~arrangement~~ structure relative to the appliance of interest.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based system of claim 11 wherein the processor configured to process the information supplied by the purchaser relative to the vent requirements data comprises:

a calculating module configured to calculate air flow data indicative of air flow supportable by the venting ~~arrangement~~ structure based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser;

a comparator configured to compare the air flow supportable by the venting ~~arrangement~~ structure relative to air flow actually required by the appliance of interest; and

a module configured to determine the suitability of the venting ~~arrangement~~ structure for the appliance of interest based on the results of the comparison.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based system of claim 11 wherein the processor configured to process the information supplied by the purchaser relative to the vent requirements data comprises:

a look-up table for supplying air flow data indicative of air flow supportable by the venting ~~arrangement~~structure in response to the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser;

AD a comparator configured to compare the air flow supportable by the venting ~~arrangement~~structure relative to air flow actually required by the appliance of interest; and

a module configured to determine the suitability of the venting ~~arrangement~~structure for the appliance of interest based on the results of the comparison.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based system of claim 11 wherein the recommendation comprises indicating to the purchaser that the venting ~~arrangement~~structure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is within a predefined acceptable range relative to at least one model for the appliance of interest.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based system of claim 11 wherein the recommendation comprises indicating to the purchaser that the venting ~~arrangement~~structure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is within a predefined marginally acceptable range relative to at least one model for the appliance of interest.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based system of claim 11 wherein the recommendation comprises indicating to the purchaser that the venting ~~arrangement~~structure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is within a predefined unsuitable range for the appliance of interest.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based system of claim 11 wherein the recommendation comprises indicating to the purchaser that the venting ~~arrangement~~structure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is unsuitable to the appliance of interest, and further comprises indicating to the purchaser alternative appliance choices that would be suitable for the venting ~~arrangement~~structure.

18. **(Original)** The computer-based system of claim 11 wherein the vent parameters are selected from the group consisting of length of the vent, number of turns along the vent, turn angle, and dimensions of a vent outlet cover.

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19. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based system of claim 11 wherein the recommendation comprises suggesting changes to the venting ~~arrangement~~structure that would make that ~~arrangement~~structure suitable to the appliance of interest.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-based system of claim 11 further comprising a certifying module configured to issue a document certifying that the venting ~~arrangement~~structure, based on the vent parameters supplied by the purchaser, is acceptable relative to at least one model for the appliance of interest.

21. **(Original)** The computer-based system of claim 11 wherein the appliance is selected from the group consisting of a drier, a range hood, and exhaust fan.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 11 further comprising a module configured to communicate the recommendation to the purchaser ~~so that appropriate action may be taken by the purchaser regarding the selection of the appliance and/or venting~~ arrangementstructure.